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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of:

Asger GEPPEL et al.

Serial No.: 09/767,680

Art Unit: 1652

Filed: January 24, 2001

Examiner: Kathleen M. Kerr

For: PORPHYRIN CONTAINING LACTIC ACID BACTERIAL CELLS
AND USE THEREOF

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed September 12, 2002, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner requested restriction to one of the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-17, drawn to cells having increased porphyrin compounds and starter culture compositions thereof, classified in class 435, subclass 252.1.
- II. Claims 18-24 and 29-31, drawn to methods comprising adding cells or starter culture to a food product, feed product, or edible product, classified in class 426, subclass 61.
- III. Claims 25-26 and 32, drawn to methods of using a bacterial cell or starter culture composition thereof to produce metabolites, classified in class 435, subclass 139.
- IV. Claims 27-28 and 33, drawn to methods of using a bacterial cell or starter culture composition thereof to produce bacteriocin, classified in class 435, subclass 71.3.